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25 July 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: C]

SUBJECT: Comments on Status of BGFIEND

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The two week delay in announcement of the launching of the PIXIE Committee is sensible. Dissension and double crossing now do not hopelessly expose our Government; but a bust up of the Committee, after we have announced its formation, would make us look like amateurs. Zog may make half a dozen combinations against us and expose all our plans, but as long as the small committee is not announced we can deny our involvement.

2. I am beginning to be a little concerned that our British friends may be letting us hold the bag. The following are my thoughts in the matter:

a. According to paragraph 2 of Cable C] "policy" is to be narrowly defined, which will leave the British in command in the field, with London taking no responsibility. The field command could make any sudden deal with Tito or Athens or a similar "command" in Italy and London and could disclaim all responsibility, while Washington could do nothing.

b. Paragraph 2 of above mentioned cable also shows that British Foreign Office is inclined to shun responsibility.

c. Paragraph 3 reveals prospective British disavowal of responsibility, while our Secretary of State has already expressed U.S. Government approval of the H.C.F.E. which openly sponsors and aids the European National Committees of which the Albanian will be one.

d. Apparently Britain wants still further to evade responsibility by having committee announced in Paris, which has nothing to do with operations or with the plan and without telling the French. This unnecessarily adds new diplomatic complication. (We're plotting against the French as well as against Hoxha.)

e. Now British (37682 para 2) want to ease Tito into the project. (Maybe they have.) This casual step is a diplomatic, military, political and moral step of prime importance.

3. In the meantime Tito has his new radio station blaring to Albanians in Albanian in Titovgrad near Albanian border.

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4. Greeks have their dander up. Apparently are determined to pursue Greek rebels clear to Tirana.

5. Suggestions:

a. The question of collaborating with Tito (thus giving him two thirds of Albania) must be settled before BGTICHD fires a shot.

b. Washington and London must make all basic decisions--not British or American field commanders.

c. Only the big main Committee should be announced and that in Washington and London.

C. O.

C. OFFICE

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